

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE—Fundamentals, Differential Diagnosis, Prognosis and Treatment. By Louis H. Sigler, M.D., Attending Cardiologist and Chief of Cardiac Clinic, Coney Island Hospital; Consulting Cardiologist, Menorah Home and Hospital for the Aged. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1949. \$10.00.

This book is an excellent addition to the physician's library. It represents an up-to-date discussion of cardiac disease by an established authority on the subject.

The book has several features which may be of particular interest to the reader. The first few chapters are concerned with general incidence, essential anatomical features, physiological principles of the circulation, data on the normal-sized heart and its measurements and a discussion of cardiac enlargement as such. In addition, chapters on normal and abnormal heart sounds, murmurs, and arterial and venous pulse tracings combine with advantage in one text the anatomy, physiology, and physical diagnosis, as well as the clinical features of heart disease. There is an excellent bibliography at the end of each chapter, and the author has used discrimination in selecting pertinent references. Electrocardiography is dismissed with minimal discussion because of the author's previous volume on the subject. The chapter on paroxysmal cerebral ischemia is particularly good as one might expect from the author's investigations dealing with this subject.

The style is pleasing and the author frequently describes a pertinent case to illustrate by example a specific point in his discussion.

There are a few discussions in which the author fails to present opposing views, such as on page 117 where he states that quinidine should never be used when auricular fibrillation is chronic and persistent, associated with mitral stenosis or other organic heart disease. With such minor exceptions the opinions expressed by the author do not differ significantly from those expressed in other textbooks of the subject.

Sigler's book can be recommended to all physicians.

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MEDICINE—VOLUME 2—DIAGNOSIS, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT. By A. E. Clark, M.D., Fellow Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1949. \$7.00.

The first volume of Clark-Kennedy's treatise on medicine (reviewed in *CALIFORNIA MEDICINE*, 68:405, May 1948) was concerned with the individual patient, the disease which afflicted him and his reaction to that disease.

The second volume is concerned with the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of disease. It is divided into six chapters: Clinical Diagnosis; Special Investigation; Disturbance of Function; Reactions of the Mind; Pathological Processes; and the Practice of Medicine.

The physician who may wish to see medicine as a whole will do well to take the time to read this book which surveys his profession in its entirety. The author's approach is that of a series of short monographs based on broad principles. Within a disciplined outline, he allows his thoughts to range freely—with stimulating results. For the man who does not wish to peruse the complete book, the chapter summaries, again as in Volume One, epitomize the facts and the philosophy, although they leave them bare.

With regard to specific problems, the different parts of the book bring up questions which the practitioner encounters one day or another almost every week. The problems are mentioned, a few answers are suggested, the rest is left up to the reader. On some of these specific problems, particularly in therapy, the reader may—as the reviewer does—part company with the author. However, the reviewer never read any part of the book without feeling that it had been worthwhile and stimulating.

QUICK REFERENCE BOOK FOR MEDICINE AND SURGERY. A Clinical, Diagnostic, and Therapeutic Digest of General Medicine, Surgery, and the Specialties. Compiled Systematically from Modern Literature by George E. Rehberger, A.B., M.D. 14th Edition. J. B. Lippincott Company, 1949. \$20.00.

The title of this volume expresses precisely what it is—a quick reference book of medicine and surgery. In its more than 1,700 pages, the entire scope of clinical medicine is encompassed. It is divided into ten principal sections. Here the diseases most likely to be met in practice are listed alphabetically. An interesting feature is the inclusion of the derivations of most of the principal medical terms. An eleventh section is given over to a summary of clinical pharmacology.

There is a tremendous breadth to the book but, necessarily, little depth. Almost anything which the practical physician may wish to look up is to be found. The discussions include a mixture of the old and the new, and the reader may need a good deal of discernment and discrimination to evaluate what he finds. Some of the therapy is outmoded: For example, aspirin is recommended as the chief agent for the itching of dermatitis venenata; the treatment of syphilis is outdated by at least three years.

The book can be of considerable use to the general practitioner who is too busy to look up a subject at length, but cannot be recommended for students. Reviewer's note: Any medical reader choosing one single clinical reference—with brief but pointed information—to take with him to a desert island, might well select this book.

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SYPHILIS: ITS COURSE AND MANAGEMENT. By Evan W. Thomas, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, New York University College of Medicine. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1949. \$5.50.

This book represents a new departure in texts on syphilis. The method of presentation is quite different from that used in the previous standard texts, and the new presentation is a great improvement over the old.

The author has probably had a wider clinical experience with syphilis than almost any other investigator, and the material used in the text is taken almost entirely from his own clinic at Bellevue Hospital in New York and is not summarized from the literature as is the usual custom.

The clinical course of the disease is described briefly but clearly, and the reader is spared the customary minute and wordy descriptions of the rarer lesions of syphilis and the endless lists of other disorders that may enter into the differential diagnosis of syphilis.

The general course of untreated syphilis is described, and the clinical manifestations of the various stages are correlated with the pathological processes induced by the *Treponema pallidum*.

In a brief but excellent chapter on immunology, the difficulties in distinguishing reinfection, relapse and superinfection are discussed and the falsity of the old Neisserian theory that reinfection is proof of previous cure is emphasized.

The diagnosis of syphilis by means of the serologic tests is considered, together with an excellent discussion of false positive reactions, and the difficulties involved in interpretation of serologic tests. Various patterns of response to therapy are illustrated with case reports from the Bellevue clinic.

The various stages of syphilis are discussed chronologically with brief but adequate clinical descriptions followed by treatment recommendations, largely based on Dr. Thomas' huge personal experience. Arsenic, bismuth and the iodides are mentioned only to be rejected, as the author believes that penicillin alone is at least as good as, and probably better than, any previous form of therapy, and that peni-

cillin will supersede every other type of treatment. However, the details of optimum penicillin treatment are not determined as yet. Probably the best preparation for the treatment of syphilis that has appeared so far is procaine penicillin in oil with 2 per cent aluminum monostearate. Prolonged action, rather than high blood levels, is important in antisyphilitic therapy, and injections of this preparation give measurable blood levels lasting several days.

In the discussion of neurosyphilis, penicillin is stated to be equal to, if not better than, all older types of treatments including malaria, and Dr. Thomas predicts that fever therapy may be discarded after the technique of penicillin treatment has been perfected. He stresses the importance of the spinal fluid changes as a guide to treatment that is more reliable than the clinical course. If the spinal fluid shows a normal cell count and protein content six months after treatment, there is little chance of progression, even though the Wassermann and gold tests remain positive.

"Syphilis: Its Course and Management" is a brief, readable, authoritative treatise that is probably more useful than any book on this subject that has been published up to the present time.

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THE COMPLEAT PEDIATRICIAN—Practical, Diagnostic, Therapeutic and Preventive Pediatrics—for the Use of Medical Students, Internes, General Practitioners and Pediatricians. By Wilburt C. Davison, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N. C., Sixth Edition, Duke University Press, 1949. \$5.00.

This unique volume (the antique spelling of its title is taken from Izaak Walton's *Compleat Angler*) now deservedly reaches its sixth edition (the first was published in 1934), having proved its usefulness not only to pediatricians but also to general practitioners and other physicians having occasion to deal with children. For those not already familiar with the work, it should be explained that it is essentially a notebook for quick reference to practically all the clinical problems of childhood. It contains an enormous amount of factual information condensed into a volume less than an inch in thickness (which can be placed in a medical bag), with an excellent index and with many cross references in the text. The amount of material contained in the volume will be better appreciated from the author's statement that for the last edition he has consulted 2,418 original articles in addition to the 17,405 used in previous editions. Thus, the reader has at hand and within a few moments, up-to-date information on practically all phases of pediatrics, including disease syndromes, individual symptoms, physical examination, laboratory methods, diets, growth and development, and commonly used prescriptions.

Obviously, such a work has its limitations and, for full description of individual topics, one must consult one of the larger texts, but within such limitations "The Compleat Pediatrician" covers a vast range in amazing detail. Dr. Davison is professor of pediatrics at Duke University School of Medicine and an outstanding authority in his field.

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THE PRACTICE OF REFRACTION. By Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, M.D., F.R.C.S., Surgeon-Oculist to H.M. the King, Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Army and the Royal Air Force. Fifth Edition. 216 illustrations. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1949. \$6.25.

Since the first edition was introduced in 1928 this book has become one of the standard texts on refraction. In the book a simple and essentially non-mathematical form of presentation has been employed, stressing the clinical practice of refraction without burdening the reader with cum-

bersome mathematical formulae. Particular emphasis is put on the symptoms of refractive errors together with their treatment.

In the new fifth edition the character of the book remains essentially unchanged although new matter has been added here and there.

In the chapter on myopia the discussion of the etiology has been revised to conform to some of the more modern conceptions. There has also been considerable revision in the text on the treatment of myopia. The description of the mechanism of accommodation has been brought up to date and a chapter has been added on anomalies of convergence. The transient changes in refraction and the subject of aniseikonia have been discussed in more detail than in previous editions. The chapter on squints has been curtailed so that only their relation to refractive errors has been considered.

The format in general resembles that of previous editions but the paper and printing do not measure up to the usual standard. In spite of this the book remains a "must" among the textbooks of the resident in ophthalmology.

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THE SKIN PROBLEM FACING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN. By Herbert Lawrence, M.D., Timely Publications, 303 Sutter Street, San Francisco, 1948.

This very readable small volume was written for the adolescent patient with acne. It is intended to explain his problems in language which he can understand so that he can cooperate with his doctor, in much the same way that similar books have been written for patients with tuberculosis, diabetes, allergic disease, etc.

The causes of acne are discussed, many misconceptions are corrected, and advice is given regarding diet, general hygiene, and local home care of the skin. Considerable stress is placed upon the emotional problems of adolescence which the author considers to be an important contributing factor. Finally, the author explains what a properly qualified dermatologist might be expected to accomplish in the treatment of this disorder.

To this reviewer, it would appear that the book maintains a carefully balanced approach to the subject, utilizes modern scientific knowledge and refrains from extravagant claims or advocating therapeutic procedures which are insufficiently established. Perhaps a little stronger emphasis should have been given to the tendency of the disease itself to produce scarring and to the fact that the scars which remain after the active process has subsided were caused by the destruction of tissue by the pustules and infected cysts and *not* by the treatment such as roentgen therapy, opening of lesions, etc.

The acne patient should derive considerable benefit from reading this volume, and the dermatologist should be benefited by receiving much better cooperation from the patient.

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CAMPBELL'S OPERATIVE ORTHOPEDICS. Editor, J. S. Speed, M.D.; Associate Editor, Hugh Smith, M.D. Second Edition, 1,141 illustrations including two color plates. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1949. \$30.00.

This excellent two-volume review of the field of orthopedic surgery is of interest not only to the orthopedic surgeon but to the general and industrial surgeon as well. Though considerable attention is given to fundamental subjects such as pre- and postoperative care, operative approaches and techniques, most characteristically the book offers a wide variety of surgical procedures for various orthopedic deformities and diseases. The volumes, containing many references, are well indexed and illustrated. New material not in the first edition has been included.